Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9689

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NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, CD, US

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF: STATE 166492

1. BELIEVE GABON WOULD RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO FRENCH INVITATION TO ATTEND "FRIENDS OF CHAD" MEETING IN PARIS. AS REPORTED NDJAMENA 2186 AND LIBREVILLE 1652, GOG HAS ALREADY SENT TWO AIRCRAFT AND PILOTS TO ASSIST GOC, AND MIGHT BE PREPARED TO INCREASE LEVEL OF ITS ASSISTANCE IF OFFERED CONVENIENT MULTILATERAL UMBRELLA UNDER WHICH TO DO SO.

2. ONLY POSSIBLE CONSTRAINTS ON PRESIDENT BONGO'S FREEDOM TO ACT IN FULL SUPPORT OF GOC ARE HIS ROLE AS OAU CHAIRMAN AND GABONESE MEMBERSHIP ON AD HOC COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED AT OAU SUMMIT TO INVESTIGATE AND PERHAPS MEDIATE CHAD-LIBYA DISPUTE (LIBREVILLE 1696). BECAUSE OF THIS DUAL RESPONSIBILITY, BONGO MAY FEEL NEED TO PRESERVE PUBLIC POSTURE OF RELATIVE NEUTRALITY, EVEN WHILE PROVIDING PRIVATE SUPPORT TO GOC.

3. IN ADDITION TO GABON, MEMBERS OF OAU AD HOC CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMITTEE ARE SENEGAL, ALGERIA, NIGERIA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND CAMEROON.STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, CAT-B

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 16-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LIBREV01814
Document Source: 10.00

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: P840081-1991

Format: TEL From: LIBREVILLE Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770750/aaaabrfy.tel

Line Count: 57 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e607366a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NODS

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS Reference: 77 STATE 166492

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1841593 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

TAGS: MASS, PDEV, CD, US, GB

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e607366a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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